

**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENT INTERIM
COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, July 20, 2005 – 2:00 p.m. – Room W125 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Thomas V. Hatch, Senate Chair
Rep. Roger E. Barrus, House chair
Sen. Beverly Ann Evans
Sen. Parley G. Hellewell
Rep. Craig W. Butters
Rep. Margaret Dayton
Rep. Carl W. Duckworth
Rep. James R. Gowans
Rep. Bradley T. Johnson
Rep. John G. Mathis
Rep. Ronda Rudd Menlove
Rep. Michael E. Noel
Rep. David Ure
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley
Rep. Richard W. Wheeler

Members Absent:

Sen. Gene Davis
Sen. Michael G. Waddoups
Rep. Jackie Biskupski
Rep. Kory M. Holdaway

Staff Present:

Mr. J Brian Allred, Policy Analyst
Mr. John L. Fellows, Deputy General Counsel
Ms. Joy L. Miller, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.leg.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Barrus called the meeting to order at 2:55 p.m. Sen. Waddoups and Rep. Biskupski were excused from the meeting.

MOTION: Rep. Duckworth moved to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2005 meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Evans, Rep. Butters, Rep. Dayton, Rep. Ure, and Rep. Wheeler absent for the vote.

Sen. Hatch reported on the passing of Mr. Tom Christensen, a long-time chair of the Committee. Rep. Johnson requested that staff draft a letter to Mrs. June Christensen expressing to her the condolences of the Committee.

2. Department of Agriculture and Food

Commissioner Leonard Blackham, Department of Agriculture and Food, introduced three new division directors recently appointed within the department.

Mr. George Hopkin, Director, Division of Conservation and Resource Management, distributed and discussed a summary of sections within the division and the division's goals.

Mr. Clair Allen, Director, Division of Plant Industry, distributed and reviewed an outline of some of the programs within the division and discussed future priorities and efficiencies.

Mr. Jed Christensen, Director, Division of Marketing and Development, distributed and discussed a list of his objectives and action plan of responsibilities. He will work to increase profitability for agriculture and related businesses and promote a vibrant and healthy rural economy.

3. Petroleum Storage Tank Trust Fund

Mr. Allred distributed a packet of information regarding the Fund (Petroleum Storage Tank Trust Fund). In FY 2004, revenue generated for the fund totaled over \$6.6 million, 91 percent of which came from the ½ cent per gallon surcharge. Currently the fund is solvent. However, an actuarial analysis indicates that the fund is projected to have a negative cash balance in 2008.

Mr. Brad T. Johnson, Director, Division of Environmental Response and Remediation, gave a presentation on the Fund which was established to protect human health and the environment from leaks that may occur in tanks that store petroleum products underground. They have been working with stakeholders to determine how to keep the Fund solvent. He reviewed options that have been proposed.

MOTION: Rep. Ure moved to request staff to draft legislation modifying the statute to require owners/operators to have all or none of their tanks on the Fund. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. John Hill, Utah Petroleum Marketers and Retailers Association, spoke in favor of the proposal.

MOTION: Rep. Johnson moved to request staff to draft a letter to the State Privatization Policy Board asking it to review the possibility of privatizing the Fund. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Energy Policy Working Group

Chair Barrus distributed and discussed "Energy Working Group Organization." Four subgroups were established to study: 1) efficiency, consumption, and consumers; 2) energy development; 3) transmission and transportation; and 4) governmental organizations. He distributed a list of "Guiding Principles" to be used in the study process.

5. Utah State Fairpark - Soccer Stadium

Mr. Fellows pointed out that one of the proposed locations for the soccer stadium is the fairgrounds. He explained that the state owns the fairgrounds and that any capital developments must be approved by the Legislature.

Mr. Richard Frenette, Executive Director, Fairpark Administration, stated the fairpark has underutilized property that could be used to generate revenue for them. The state can sublease the property and the stadium would be built with private funds. He hoped that if the stadium is located at the fairpark it would help them become self-sufficient.

Mr. Carlton Christensen, Salt Lake City Council Member, said he recognized the proposal as an

opportunity to more fully utilize the fairpark. The City Council would support future discussion of the concept.

Ms. Allison McFarland, Salt Lake City Economic Development Director, said they have done a few economic impact studies of the location and see a great potential. Although the stadium would be designed as soccer specific, there are other sporting events or activities that could also take place there.

6. Other Business / Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Hellewell moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Barrus adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.